

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible shoe assembly for use in a molding system

comprising [[,]] :

a body for supporting a load; and

a force redirector;

said body having [[a]] an upper wearing surface for slideably engaging a complimentary surface of a supported member, and a lower mounting surface engaging a complementary surface within said molding system and providing positioning and adjustment of said shoe assembly during installation, and said force redirector disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface for redirecting said force from a peripheral edge of said upper surface to a central force area in said body.

2. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 1 further comprising,

a load distributor disposed in a place above said force redirector, said load distributor distributing a load across said upper surface and maintaining said upper surface relatively flat under loading.

3. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 2 wherein,

said load distributor is formed on said upper surface.

4. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 2 further comprising,
- a wear pad; and
- a wear pad retainer formed in said upper surface;
- said wear pad mounted by said wear pad retainer on said upper surface wherein said load distributor is formed on a lower surface of said wear pad.
5. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 3, wherein said load distributor is a series of stepped notches.
6. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 3, wherein said load distributor is a contoured recess.
7. (Original) A shoe as in claim 1, wherein said force redirector provides pivotal movement of said upper surface.
8. (Presently Amended) A shoe as in claim 7 wherein,
- said force ~~distributor~~ redirector is a pair of slots in said body forming a web interconnecting an upper support member and a lower support member.
9. (Presently Amended) A shoe as in claim 7 wherein, said force ~~redistributor~~ redirector is a slot forming a web interconnecting an upper support member and a lower support member.

10. (Original) A shoe as in claim 8 further comprising a first flexation stop disposed in one of said pair of slots between said upper support member and said lower support member; and

a second flexation stop disposed in a second of said pair of slots between said upper support member and said lower support member, said first flexation stop and said second flexation stop limiting pivotal movement of said upper support.

11. (Original) A shoe as in claim 9 further comprising a flexation stop disposed in said slot between said upper support member and said lower support member, said flexation stop limiting pivotal movement of said upper support.

12. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 1, wherein,

said wear pad retainer is a first edge lip formed at a first peripheral edge of said upper surface of said body and a second edge lip formed at a second peripheral edge of said upper surface of said body said first edge lip and said second edge lip engaging respective ends of said wear pad releasably retaining said wear pad with said shoe.

Claims 13-26 (Cancelled)

27. (New) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 1 wherein said body includes at least one fixation bore extending lengthwise through a lower support of said body.

28. (New) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 1 wherein said complementary surface of said lower mounting engages a surface of a bore in a platen within said molding system.

29. (New) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 28 wherein said bottom surface is semi cylindrical.

30. (New) A shoe as in claim 28, wherein said force redirector provides pivotal movement of said upper surface.

31. (New) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 28 wherein said body includes at least one fixation bore extending lengthwise through a lower support of said body.

32. (New) A shoe as in claim 29, wherein said force redirector provides pivotal movement of said upper surface.

33. (New) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 29, wherein said body includes at least one fixation bore extending lengthwise through a lower support of said body.

34. (New) A flexible shoe assembly for use in a molding system comprising:
a body for supporting a load; and
a force redirector;

said body having an upper wearing surface for slideably engaging a complimentary surface of a supported member, and said force redirector comprises a pair of slots in said body forming a web having an integral bearing surface thereon, said force redirector disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface for redirecting said force from a peripheral edge of said upper surface to a central force area in said body.

35. (New) A flexible shoe assembly for use in a molding system comprising:

a body for supporting a load; and

a force redirector;

said body having an upper wearing surface for slideably engaging a complimentary surface of a supported member, and said force redirector disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface for redirecting said force from a peripheral edge of said upper surface to a central force area in said body, wherein said body includes at least one fixation bore extending lengthwise through a lower support of said body.